

Message Text

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42

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CCO-00 EUR-12 L-03 A-01 /031 W

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O R 011259Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4497

AMCONGEN FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13495

STADIS////////////////////

FROM COURIER OFFICER HANKS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM

SUBJ: ATHENS POUCH OPERATION IRREGULARITY

1. COURIER OFFICER HANKS ON RT 115 TWO WEEKS AGO LEARNED ATO ATHENS HAD CUSTODY OF STATE DEPARTMENT POUCH-SEAL CRIMPER. EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED RETRIEVE CRIMPER. NOVEMBER 29 DURING ATHENS LAYOVER AT BEGINNING OF RT 100 TRIP, HANKS MET WITH ATO MORAN AND SAMSEL, NEWLY-ARRIVED EMBASSY CRO CRAM. MEETING WAS AT EMBASSY REQUEST TO DISCUSS PRESENT POUCHING PRACTICES. DURING DISCUSSION IT WAS LEARNED ATO HAD FOR AN UNKNOWN PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 18 MONTHS BEEN POUCHING ITS OWN UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL FOR AIR AND AIR-CONTROLLED DISPATCHES AND DELIVERING THESE POUCHES TO AIRPORT. THE ATO UNIT IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 9 MILES FROM EMBASSY IN ITS OWN COMPOUND. PERIODICALLY ATO RENEWED SUPPLY OF POUCHES, SEALS, TAGS AND INVOICES FROM EMBASSY. INVOICE NUMBERS WERE APPARENTLY COORDINATED BY PHONE BETWEEN ATO AND EMBASSY.

2. ABOVE IRREGULARITY RESULT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND ATO. ATO BENEFITS ACCURED FROM HAVING FULL CONTROL OVER AIR POUCH DISPATCHES, EMBASSY BENEFITS FROM REDUCED POUCH-ROOM WORK-LOAD. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF ECONOMIC FACTOR WAS PRESENT AT TIME OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BUT ATO CURRENTLY HAS
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ITS OWN \$60,000 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR AIR POUCH OPERATIONS. ALL

ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE APPARENTLY COMPLETED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN ATHENS OF ANY OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS. 1975 ATO AIR POUCH DISPATCH FIGURES SHOW AN AVERAGE DISPATCH OF 4 OR 5 ITEMS PER WORK DAY, ALTHOUGH MORAN INDICATED THIS FIGURE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN 1976.

3. MEETING PARTICIPANTS WERE ADVISED THAT PROCEDURE WAS CONTRARY TO DEPARTMENT'S REGULATIONS/POLICY AND WOULD HAVE TO BE TERMINATED. NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO RETURN AIR POUCH OPERATION TO EMBASSY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NEXT WEEK. ATHENS REQUESTED ADVISE WHEN TRANSITION FINAL.
MARSHALL

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